



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Office of Legacy Management

PROGRAM UPDATE

JULY-SEPTEMBER
2026



6

LM Ensures
Knowledge
Retention

8

LM Preparing
Youth for STEM
Opportunities

10

LM Fosters
Growth of Future
Professionals

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Director's Corner



Workforce Development a Critical Aspect of LM's Long-Term Success

The legendary Green Bay Packers football coach Vince Lombardi once said that it takes an individual's commitment to a group effort to make a team work, a company work, a society work, and in fact, a civilization to work.

When it comes to our organization at the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM), I could not be prouder of this team that is made up of individuals who have made service to their nation their life's work.

In this edition of *Program Update*, we address an important function of our operation — workforce development. Although we have programs and approaches to build our LM workforce and the workforce of the future, it all starts with an individual's drive to be a part of this calling.

This edition will explore our training and support program, how we ensure we capture the knowledge and experience we've gained over decades, how STEM programs are helping to educate the next generation of scientific professionals, and how mentorships and internships play a role in preparing young people for the challenges ahead.

These approaches help us deliver on three critical aspects of our mission:

- Protect taxpayer investments that have been made since the inception of the DOE cleanup program
- Manage risk responsibly and transparently
- Provide stability and trust to partners, colleagues, and community members

The LM and LM Support Partner workforce represents an extraordinary blend of disciplines: engineers, hydrologists, health physicists, geologists, data scientists, communications professionals, project managers, accountants, asset management specialists, IT analysts, regulatory experts, and more.

As we look ahead, LM's role will only grow in importance. Cleanup transitions will continue. Long-term stewardship obligations will expand. Data management, climate resilience, and land-use pressures will evolve.

The expertise, professionalism, and commitment our workforce exhibits are the backdrop to work that is often complex, long-term, and — by its nature — sometimes invisible to the public. The steady, quiet efficiency that we deliver is the expectation and at the heart of what makes our organization a trusted partner.

However, that dependability does not happen accidentally. It happens because of a commitment to invest in our workforce and provide workers with the tools and resources they need to perform this important work.

As that happens, we also have our eyes on future workers who will carry on this work with the knowledge and expertise required to safeguard human health, environments, and public properties bound to the nation's postclosure responsibilities at former atomic defense sites.

I am grateful to be a part of this tremendous group of people who are committed to lives of service and who perform our mission at the Office of Legacy Management. We all have a vested interest in making sure our employees and the workforce of the future are well equipped and prepared for the challenges we are eager to meet for the American people.

Warm regards,

Carmelo

Carmelo Melendez



*Safeguard human health, environments, and public properties bound
to the nation's postclosure responsibilities at former atomic defense sites.*

Welcome to the July-September 2026 issue of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management **Program Update**. This publication provides a status of activities within LM.

Please direct all comments and inquiries to media@lm.doe.gov.

Inside This Update: Contents

Director's Corner ////////////////////////////////////// 2

Prepared for Anything:

A Look at LM's In-Depth Training Program ////////////////////////////////// 4

LM's Knowledge Transfer Strategies:

Capturing Employee Experience ////////////////////////////////////// 6

Planting Seeds for the Next Generation of STEM Professionals //// 8

Securing the Future of Stewardship Through Internships ////////// 10

The Future of Stewardship: Inside the Legacy Management

STEM Internship Boot Camp ////////////////////////////////////// 12

Mel Lutz Promoted to Manage FUSRAP for LM ////////////////////////////////// 14

LM's Sara Woods Promoted to Oversee UMTRCA Title I Sites //// 16

Meghann Hurt Promoted to Groundwater Program Manager ///// 18

Mary Young Takes the Helm of UMTRCA Title II Portfolio ////////// 20

Rebecca Roberts Honored as LM Employee of the Year ////////// 22

LM Now an Established Presence

at Western Colorado Children's Water Festival ////////////////////////////////// 24

LM Presents 2025 Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, Annual Report

Information to the Community ////////////////////////////////////// 26

Barbara Michel Joins LM ECHO ////////////////////////////////////// 28

At Conference, DOE Historian Presents on Connection Between

DOE Sites and Ecological Research ////////////////////////////////// 29

AEC Films Available Online on the LM Website ////////////////////////////////// 31



GOAL ONE

Protect human health
and the environment.



GOAL TWO

Preserve, protect,
and share records
and information.



GOAL THREE

Safeguard former
contractor workers'
retirement benefits.



GOAL FOUR

Sustainably manage
and optimize the use
of land and assets.



GOAL FIVE

Sustain management
excellence.



GOAL SIX

Engage the public,
governments, and
interested parties.



Prepared for Anything: A Look at LM's In-Depth Training Program

LM's multilayered training gives staff and contractors confidence and tools to complete LM's mission

The Office of Legacy Management's primary mission is to protect human health and the environment. To do so, LM and the LM Support Partner (LMSP) need rigorous training and certifications.

To guarantee LM and LMSP can perform any duties necessary, LM uses a multilayered training program.

"LM's training program is critical because we are handling the safety of everyone, not just our staff, but communities and the environment where these sites are located," said LM Quality and Risk Manager Jonathan Damiano. "We have to make sure we see any potential problems beforehand and are prepared with the correct staff, confidence, and knowledge, so our programming is very extensive and covers everything we touch."

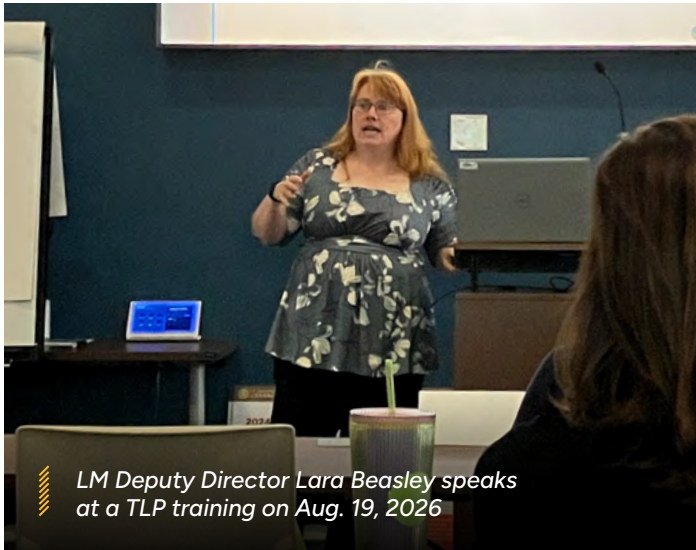
This programming is a combination of federal-wide frameworks, safety programs, and hands-on training. One of the ways LM prepares its workforce is through the Technical Learning Program (TLP), which is managed by the National Training Center and adopted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The TLP is designed to establish, maintain, and reinforce a strong, collaborative safety culture and a safety-conscious work environment across all DOE sites and contractor workforces.

The program is structured to ensure safety expectations are met at every level from senior officials to field workers on the federal and contractor side. LM and LMSP actively use these TLP courses to certify their managers and employees. By completing TLP classes, supervisors and workers align on how to handle safety concerns during complex fieldwork.

We are looking at everything from every angle and preparing for every possible scenario before it can happen.

— Jonathan Damiano

LMSP attendees of TLP-150, Safety Culture for Front-Line Leaders, split into small groups to discuss safety culture.



LM Deputy Director Lara Beasley speaks at a TLP training on Aug. 19, 2026

LM and LMSP also undergo other training related to site-specific hazards, radiological safety, and waste management.

"LM has a very robust training and certification program that provides key assurance measures to ensure we complete our work in a safe, compliant, and environmentally responsible manner," said Damiano. "Everyone must work under direct supervision until that process is complete."

LM has instituted a rigorous Integrated Work Control Process (IWCP), which defines the scope of work, identifies hazards, establishes tailored controls, and confirms that the specific workers assigned to the task have the necessary training and certifications to execute those controls.

Damiano added, "Before we start significant projects or field activities, we complete an IWCP readiness review to make sure that our staff are ready and we have all the proper things in place." These verify that LM has the proper facilities, equipment, and safety envelopes and that the workforce itself is completely prepared to operate safely before final authorization is granted to proceed with the work.

In addition to job-specific training and hands-on development, LM regularly prepares staff for other events and emergencies with exercises and drills tailored to each of its sites. This ensures that local response personnel are trained to act effectively and swiftly during any incident.

"Our priority is not just completing our mission, but doing so in a way that is safe and where everyone feels confident in what they need to do and how to do it," Damiano said.

While LM already has a complex training system in place, it is also continually improving through annual assessments. These are used as a management tool to direct training resources toward addressing the evolving technical needs of the Office as older sites are managed and new sites transition.

"We are looking at everything from every angle and preparing for every possible scenario before it can happen," Damiano said.



LMSP Learning and Development Manager Carrie Williams guides an engaged group through the TLP-150 course.



LM's Knowledge Transfer Strategies: Capturing Employee Experience

Members of the Information Disclosure Support team visit the records vault at the Legacy Management Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, in August 2026 for an upcoming records transfer project.

Three Types of Knowledge

1. **Tacit knowledge:** personal, experience-based know-how
2. **Explicit knowledge:** recorded documentation such as formal procedures, policies, and manuals
3. **Institutional knowledge:** collective, organizational knowledge that includes both explicit and tacit elements

Imagine you've worked for the same organization for nearly 30 years. Throughout your career, you've watched organizational charts change, policies evolve, and technology advance and worked on numerous projects. You've gained a wealth of valuable knowledge and expertise through hands-on experience, observation, and social interactions that benefit not just your department and team, but the entire organization.

And now, it's time for a well-earned retirement. But when you go, the decades of knowledge and experience that aren't written down walk out the door with you.

This type of knowledge is called tacit knowledge — the skills, expertise, and insights developed over time that aren't learned solely by reading or through formal documentation or instruction. Arguably, it might be the most important type of knowledge, given the complexities of the Office of Legacy Management's work.

"This is the most difficult kind of knowledge to capture," said LM Records and Information Management Specialist Giancarlo Deguia. "Records, reports, and policies can easily be consulted at any time. But how can we use the knowledge that only exists in the minds of our workers, especially if it's site-, project-, or program-specific? This is the challenge we're working to solve."

Fortunately, not every piece of knowledge exists solely in someone's memory. Organizations also rely on explicit knowledge — documented information employees create every day. Desktop procedures, controlled documents, job aids, and standard operating procedures streamline processes to keep things running smoothly.

Explicit knowledge, combined with years of employees' tacit knowledge, builds valuable institutional knowledge. This is the collective understanding that helps LM continue working effectively across sites, programs, and generations of employees.

"Our goal isn't just preserving knowledge as an institutional asset, it's preserving the context behind it for future employees' understanding," Deguia said.

Until recently, LM didn't really have a system to acquire tacit knowledge, let alone transfer it to new employees. Before technology made online information repositories possible, new employees learned their job through experience or tenured colleagues in their specific departments.

Now, LM is taking a deliberate approach to capturing tacit knowledge before it's lost. They've brought on an experienced knowledge management specialist to create a top-down approach by implementing several tried-and-true strategies.

Capturing decades of experience across an organization as complex as LM doesn't happen overnight. The first approach is prioritizing knowledge capture from departing employees. Second, the team must actively remove barriers and silos throughout the organization.



Strategy 1: **Knowledge Handover Toolkit**

This toolkit contains offboarding tools for retiring employees and templates designed for different roles and work groups. During their offboarding interviews, employees are asked what resources they use, who they work with, and if they can create how-to guides for processes and procedures before they leave.



Strategy 2: **Online Repository**

Capturing knowledge is only half the battle. Employees must be able to find it. The goal is to create one knowledge management site or library accessible to anyone in the organization at any time. LM's knowledge management specialist also wants to make sure information is both relevant and useful, and not just a digital filing cabinet of information.



Strategy 3: **Metadata**

"That which exists without metadata is doomed to a functional nonexistence, for in the modern archive, that which cannot be retrieved does not merely sleep — it ceases to have ever occurred," Deguia said.

This requires good metadata, so the Information Management team is developing a controlled language to improve findability. Consistency across the board is key. When you search for a specific site name, it should pull up all the correct information about that site. The knowledge management specialist is also assisting the Data and Information Governance teams with a classification system.



Strategy 4: **Training**

None of these efforts succeed unless employees understand why knowledge management matters. Earlier this year, the knowledge management specialist held a training series introducing the knowledge handover templates and how they work. She is working with the Learning and Development team to create training employees can access whenever they need it.

Why It Matters

Documenting and sharing knowledge are essential for cross-collaboration and making sure team members have access to critical knowledge for succession planning and onboarding. If knowledge isn't captured or documented correctly, not only does the organization lose critical expertise, but it also poses several risks.

Without good knowledge transfer, organizations risk losing operational continuity, duplicating work, weakening succession planning, allowing processes to drift over time, and creating quality or compliance issues.

Knowledge management isn't just for succession planning; every employee has something to contribute. For operations to continue running seamlessly and successfully, capturing expertise has to be an organizational priority.

Employees are encouraged to capture and document little things learned along the way throughout their career, not just when retirement is on the horizon.

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Our goal isn't just preserving knowledge as an institutional asset, it's preserving the context behind it for future employees' understanding.

— Giancarlo Deguia

Preserving knowledge isn't simply about documenting the past or writing down a policy or a procedure. Every document, lesson shared, and conversation that's recorded keeps decades of experience intact and adds to the collective organizational knowledge that benefits LM far into the future. It equips the next generation of LM employees with vital knowledge so they can carry forward decades of expertise while continuing LM's mission to protect human health and the environment.



STEM^{WITH}LM

Planting Seeds for the Next Generation of STEM Professionals

STEM with LM builds the future science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce through engaging activities and opportunities, introducing curious young minds to these fields.

Launched in 2020, the initiative was envisioned by Office of Legacy Management Executive Director Carmelo Melendez. He sought to create a program that would engage, educate, and enlighten the public about technical education in support of LM's mission.

Director Melendez wanted LM staff involved in this outreach, serving as mentors and educators to increase awareness of technical career paths. Today, the program offers interactive activities for kids to deepen their understanding of scientific concepts. Additionally, themed lesson plans are readily available online for educators to incorporate in their classroom learning. LM also provides professional development through internships and graduate programs.

By fostering early interest in technical fields, the program prepares future workers to sustain LM's mission of long-term stewardship at former atomic sites.

"It's important to recognize that the youth are our future. The young, curious mind is always open to something new. STEM with LM gives curious minds the environment to explore their interest in STEM and receive guidance on how to take that curiosity and make it into a career. We are developing the future of the STEM workforce," said Program Manager Shawn Montgomery.

Establishing a Pipeline for Future Careers

The initiative builds the foundation for tomorrow's STEM careers through engaging lessons and experiences. These lessons simplify complex scientific concepts while creating a learning environment that encourages exploration.

Tina Ross, LM Support Partner (LMSP) education specialist, describes this program as an "opportunity for participants to learn about science in a fun and nurturing environment." LMSP Education Programs Manager Kevin McCarthy agrees, saying, "STEM with LM shows the younger generation that STEM careers matter."

The program furthers LM's mission of long-term stewardship. By introducing youth to these concepts and career paths, it piques their curiosity and lays the foundation for future professionals — some of whom may eventually join LM and further its mission.

This venture targets all ages, offering activities for grade schoolers and internships for university students. Specifically, the LM STEM Internship Program provides undergraduate students from diverse educational backgrounds the chance to experience working for LM firsthand. Students are paired with mentors and assigned specialized projects tailored to their majors and interests, equipping them with the practical skills necessary for their fields.

For example, intern Ta'Mera Brown worked with the Education, Communication, History, and Outreach team to design hydrology and hydrogeology curriculum for summer camps. Her teaching experience at these camps — hosted by the Atomic Legacy Cabin — complements her studies as an Education major with a concentration in Autism Studies at Francis Marion University.

Brown designed memorable, engaging content that helped students retain information. She believes that "education links to appreciation" and that people can connect with science without working in a traditional technical role. Throughout her internship, she collaborated with several LM professionals, which strengthened her project and furthered her appreciation for the field. "Ultimately, this internship has made a connection for me between STEM and the things that I am passionate about," Brown said.

The program remains committed to making scientific concepts and educational resources accessible to the next generation, opening a world of rewarding careers for young people. From classroom curricula to hands-on internships, this endeavor continues to prepare the next generation of technical leaders.

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Ultimately, this internship has made a connection for me between STEM and the things that I am passionate about.

— Ta'Mera Brown



STEM Intern Ta'Mera Brown interacts with a young visitor to the Atomic Legacy Cabin.



GOAL SIX

Securing the Future of Stewardship Through Internships

LM STEM interns at the weekly learning and collaboration meeting.

The Office of Legacy Management is committed to developing the next generation of workers and environmental stewards. Internship programs serve as an entryway for students to gain early professional experience and networking opportunities. All internship programs are designed for students to gain skills, understand LM's mission, and build relationships for future opportunities. LM understands the importance of building the future workforce so the mission of lifelong stewardship can continue.

STEM with LM Internship Program

The LM STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) internship is a 10-week program in which undergraduate students complete specialized projects in connection with their major or professional interest. LM staff mentor the interns throughout their projects. LM collaborates with a nonprofit charitable organization whose goal is to help individuals create a strategic plan for their lives. This year, 11 interns were chosen and placed at various LM sites.

Colorado State University Internship

The Colorado State University (CSU) and DOE connection first emerged in the 1990s. The hydraulics lab at CSU conducts flume testing for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for disposal cells in LM's portfolio that contain uranium mill tailings. Ongoing flume testing is helping LM scientists develop new disposal cell designs. LM created a funding mechanism to support CSU graduate student Catherine Lambert, who has spent her summer assisting with flume testing for LM's disposal cell in Monticello, Utah.

Joining the Legacy

These internships serve as stepping stones for potential employment at LM. One such intern, Coral Copenhaver, was hired to a full-time position as a geoscience technician.

Her internship experience gave her the opportunity to be a part of a project she enjoyed.

"I got to work on a project that pushed me outside my comfort zone and taught me new skills," she said. Her mentor helped her learn how to network and build meaningful relationships with LM staff. As an intern, Coral found that the work aligned with her field of interest.

"It was really nice to see people doing what I was more interested in and what that looked like in the real world," she said.

Coral is thankful for the internship because she was able to familiarize herself with the Groundwater group, leveraging her new knowledge to be hired as an LM Support Partner (LMSP).

"I am grateful for the opportunity to do the internship first, because I do think it gave me more time to really focus on learning about the Groundwater group and what it is we do," she said.

The Importance of Internships

LMSP Applied Studies and Technology Senior Scientist Chris Jarchow noted how internships provide an opportunity that allows students to grow and learn in a



LM STEM Intern Seth Williams, right, and Applied Studies and Technology Senior Scientist David Holbrook in the field.

real-world setting. For LM, these programs help students understand LM's mission and discover a potential place for employment post-graduation. Jarchow wants to introduce students to LM during the early stages of their careers to ensure that students are aware of all their career possibilities.

"I know firsthand that it is important to bring awareness of LM and LM's mission early on in post-secondary student programs," he said.

Professional relationships are important for workforce development because they help LM build a network of

emerging STEM professionals. LM Program Manager Jalena Dayvault says that "internship programs like Florida International University help LM foster interest in the physical sciences and engineering disciplines as well as support talented students. The emerging workforce has so much potential! These programs help to create relationships between us and students. Hopefully, these relationships and experiences lead to interest in joining LM and continuing the mission."

Internship programs also benefit LM staff because they get to meet new faces and mentor the younger generation. As noted by STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery, "While these programs were designed for students to gain experience, they also give LM staff the chance to create connections with students. Interns gain knowledge from their mentors while mentors receive different perspectives from their interns. The mentor and intern dynamic works well in these programs."

Ultimately, the workforce of tomorrow is being prepared through internship programs. LM will continue to fulfill postclosure responsibilities to sites, and through these internships, LM strives to develop and employ future environmental stewards.



LM STEM Intern Morgan Coverson-Springs assists with an activity at the Atomic Legacy Cabin.



GOAL SIX

Key Takeaways



The Future of Stewardship: Inside the Legacy Management STEM Internship Boot Camp

*Director Melendez introduces students
to LM's practices, work culture*

*LM Director Carmelo Melendez speaks to the
STEM interns at the LM Operations Center in
Westminster, Colorado, May 28, 2026.*

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management STEM interns participated in a boot camp, allowing interns to grow their skills and understand the mission of LM.

This summer, a fresh group of talented, handpicked students joined the LM STEM Summer Internship Program. From May 27 to May 30, LM interns engaged in an intensive boot camp hosted at the LM Operations Center in Westminster, Colorado. Through the collaborative effort, the boot camp was designed to provide interns with the interpersonal and technical skills needed for their professional and personal journeys.

The Foundation: Professional Skills and Leadership

"Preparing you for what you should know before you go," served as the framework for the boot camp. Over the course of the event, interns participated in workshops focused on networking, budgeting, public speaking, communication skills, and project management. Tina Ross, LM Support Partner (LMSP) education specialist, highlighted the value of these lessons, noting that the boot camp is "just for you to learn and grow for now and the immediate future."

But technical skills are only half the equation. Understanding the "why" behind the work is just as important. In addition to career-readiness training, interns were introduced to LM's practices and work culture by LM Director Carmelo

Melendez, who spoke about LM's history and mission, including LM's responsibility to protect communities, manage legacy land, and preserve historical records. This discussion gave the interns a clear sense of purpose before they even arrived at their assigned field sites.

STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery emphasized the importance of the interns learning the history of LM, saying, "It was important for interns to learn the history and mission of LM, so they remember the 'why' behind our work. Understanding our past helps them see the lasting impact of their projects."

Creating the Standard: Strengthening Connections and Building Confidence

Environmental stewardship is a joint multigenerational effort, and so the boot camp emphasized teamwork. It sent a message about LM's culture of teamwork and belonging. It was a chance for interns to build their confidence and soft skills alongside LM and LMSP staff while being welcomed to LM.

While the boot camp provided interns with professional development, it also helped build relationships between interns, mentors, and other LM staff.

On the first evening of the boot camp, interns participated in the Warrior Challenge, a physical activity that prompted them to use their communication and leadership skills to finish obstacles. For Kyra Farmer, a Geodatabase intern at the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, and a senior at North Carolina Central University, this challenge encouraged positive interactions between interns. "The warrior arena really helped me get along with the girls. I feel like I can depend on them," Farmer said.

Similarly, Elon Tullock, an Environmental Management intern at the Weldon Spring Site in Missouri and a recent graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, found that informal conversations and networking activities helped her step out of her comfort zone. "Although I am naturally more reserved when meeting new people, I quickly felt comfortable opening up. I connected well with the other interns and built meaningful relationships, which made the experience feel welcoming and collaborative instead of isolating."

Bridging the Gap: Mentorship and Site Visits

The boot camp also gave LM leaders a chance to learn from the incoming class. Kevin McCarthy, LMSP Education Programs manager, spent time chatting one-on-one with the interns throughout the week. These casual discussions allowed him the chance to understand the interns' unique perspectives and career aspirations beyond their formal job assignments. "You know, a little one-on-one time, that's been really helpful for me," McCarthy said.

Additionally, interns met other LM staff at the LM Operations Center. During a networking activity, LM staff and interns shared stories about their daily duties and ongoing projects, reinforcing a sense of community, mentorship, and shared purpose. The mentorship experience for interns is "going to make this program live for now and for the future," Ross said.

Materializing the Impact: Designing Their Contribution to the Mission

To wrap up the boot camp, interns created and delivered presentations detailing their upcoming summer projects, site locations, corresponding missions, and personal goals. These presentations highlighted how each intern fits into LM's broader environmental stewardship mission regardless of their academic background and summer assignment.

For Ariana Smith, a soil calibration research intern at the LM Field Support Center and a junior at Texas Southern University, the supportive atmosphere allowed her to bring her authentic self to work. "Witnessing the interpersonal dynamics between interns and LM staff showed me the importance of showing up as my true self," Smith said.

The boot camp ended with a heartfelt ceremony where interns received pins and said their goodbyes. Armed with new skills, professional mentors, and a tight-knit network of peers, the interns departed for their respective field sites across the country. In just a few days, they had learned and internalized what it means to be a part of "One Team, One Mission."

LM Director Carmelo Melendez shakes hands with STEM intern Ja'Myiah Clark at the boot camp.





Mel Lutz Promoted to Manage FUSRAP for LM

Office of Legacy Management Site Manager Melissa Lutz was recently promoted to manager of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

FUSRAP was established in 1974 by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), predecessor to the U.S. Department of Energy, to evaluate and remediate sites where radioactive contamination remained from the Manhattan Engineer District and AEC operations. Today, LM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jointly manage FUSRAP. There are currently 35 completed FUSRAP sites in the LM portfolio in long-term surveillance and maintenance, and USACE is actively remediating 20 sites that will come to LM after cleanup is complete.

Lutz has been with LM since June of 2021, but her career in the DOE complex spans decades as a DOE contractor, where she worked with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

"Having spent the majority of my career in the CERCLA/RCRA world, I am really excited about this new chapter," Lutz said when talking about her recent promotion. "It is a welcomed opportunity for continued growth, and I love a challenge. It keeps you motivated and excited about your job."

Lutz plans to draw on her wealth of knowledge and experience in site operations, environmental protection, and project management to successfully transition into her new role. "FUSRAP is already a well-developed program," Lutz said. "I feel very fortunate to step into a role that has solid groundwork laid by my predecessors."

Despite her previous experience, Lutz sees her biggest asset and most valuable resources being the people she works with. "I'm most excited about the folks I will be working with and building new relationships. Those relationships are not only the key to a great place to work, but will ensure FUSRAP continues to move forward and operate effectively and efficiently," Lutz said. "LM and the LM Support Partner are blessed with talented and dedicated employees. My coworkers are awesome!"

LM Supervisory General Engineer Darina Castillo highlighted Lutz's versatility and readiness for the position. "Mel is a team player who has supported LM in many capacities over the years," said Castillo. "She has led major infrastructure projects, coordinated the New York District Activities for FUSRAP, and led the Pinellas site. All these combined with several supporting activities for the Weldon Spring Site made her a great candidate for promotion."

Looking ahead, Lutz knows there is plenty of work on the horizon. LM is slated to inherit 20 more FUSRAP sites, with 15 of them expected to transition into long-term surveillance and maintenance within the next decade. Many of these sites are more complex in nature than LM's current FUSRAP sites, with some involving active groundwater treatment systems. "I am eager to contribute to these successful transitions," Lutz said. "But the real stars of these transitions are our dedicated LM and LM Support Partner site managers, our knowledgeable subject matter experts, and our USACE partners. It truly takes a village."



Lutz, center, with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff, overlooking the future Staten Island Site in New York City in May 2026.



Mel Lutz | FUSRAP Program Manager



LM's Sara Woods Promoted to Oversee UMTRCA Title I Sites

Grand Junction Site Manager Sara Woods' journey with the Office of Legacy Management began with an internship while studying Biological Sciences at then Mesa State College (now Colorado Mesa University) in Grand Junction, Colorado. Her father, a hydrogeologist who worked with the LM Support Partner (LMSP) for over three decades and had supported LM's mission since its inception, told Woods about the opportunity, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Now, Woods has been promoted to program manager for all Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I sites. She'll also continue to manage the Grand Junction Disposal and Processing Sites as well as the future Moab and Crescent Junction sites in Utah. Those sites are continuing the transfer of residual radioactive materials.

"After my internship and obtaining my degree, I accepted a full-time job on the LM contract, specializing in environmental compliance for 12 years. This provided me with the opportunity to work on many LM sites under different regulatory requirements and diverse stakeholders," said Woods.

That experience positioned Woods well for overseeing one of LM's largest site portfolios.

"In October 2020, I had the opportunity to move to the federal side to serve the mission in a different capacity," she said. "I've been blessed with many mentors over the past 18 years who have taught me and believed in me, helping me to have a depth of understanding of the LM mission that has led to my new role. I'm really looking forward to my experience in this next chapter."

Woods' new role includes a wide range of responsibilities beyond ensuring the long-term stewardship of sites in her portfolio. She'll mentor site management teams, compile and analyze sites trends and information, assess and reduce risk, and develop budgets, all with the aim of protecting human health and the environment.

"My role as site manager for the Grand Junction sites, particularly the Grand Junction disposal site, has allowed me to work closely with Title I sites, providing a disposal option for residual radioactive material generated from those sites and across the region," said Woods. "I've been

able to collaborate with site managers and site leads, as well as support groups such as Environmental Compliance and Safety and Health, to ensure proper and safe disposal of Title I waste at LM's only open disposal cell."

"Sara is a welcomed addition to the UMTRCA leadership team," said LM Office Director Paul Kerl. "She was carefully selected as a strong match to both existing organizational culture and her ability to bring diverse expertise and continually improve and refine operations and site management going forward."

UMTRCA Title I sites are former uranium ore processing sites that finished operations by 1978. Currently, there are 22 UMTRCA Title I sites; 19 of these sites have engineered disposal cells created during remediation that contain uranium mill tailings and other low-level radioactive materials.

Woods will remain with LM Environmental Team 1. LMSP UMTRCA Title I Site Manager Jordan Cario will serve as her programmatic peer alongside multiple site managers and site leads. In her new role, Woods will work closely with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, LM's primary programmatic regulator, as well as numerous states, sites, and Tribal partners. She'll coordinate closely with LM's Site Transition Program Manager Tiffany Drake for future site transitions, including the UMTRCA Title I Moab and Crescent Junction, Utah, sites.

Those who have worked alongside Woods say her promotion reflects years of technical expertise, leadership, and collaboration.

"Sara has routinely brought together a trifecta of competence, compassion, and courage in all she does on both the contractor and federal teams to LM's mission for more than 15 years," said Kerl. "She also routinely sought out diverse multidisciplinary opportunities to further LM's mission and help others in execution of their work. She is a natural and relatable leader who also has demonstrated capacity to lead others in a greater capacity."



Sara Woods | UMTRCA Title I Program Manager



Meghann Hurt Promoted to Groundwater Program Manager

LM site manager excited to grow and fine tune important long-term surveillance and maintenance program

The Office of Legacy Management recently promoted Site Manager Meghann Hurt to manager of the Groundwater program. Hurt has been with LM since June of 2021, after working as a subcontractor for the U.S. Department of Energy.

"One of my favorite things about being at LM and working here is getting to explore new ideas and being able to grow with LM as it changes and evolves," Hurt said after the news of her promotion. "I'm excited and nervous for this next adventure. I feel very honored and proud to have been selected to head this program."

After falling in love with geology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Hurt spent some time doing environmental consulting before landing at DOE.

"I had never really thought about being involved in working for the government when I graduated college, but I had the amazing opportunity to work with DOE, and I really enjoyed it and eventually found my way to LM," Hurt said.

During her time at LM, Hurt has become the site manager for nine sites across multiple programs, including the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act and Plowshare/Vela Uniform/Weapons Related. She will continue to manage these sites as she moves into her new role.

As a site manager, Hurt is responsible for long-term surveillance and maintenance management and regulatory and environmental compliance at each assigned LM site. She works closely with LM Support Partner (LMSP) employees and technical experts to ensure successful collaboration with LM stakeholders. She is no stranger to making decisions regarding LM sites and dealing with some of the challenges related to groundwater.

"I think what's changed for me the most in this new role is now I'm not just hyperfocused on my own sites, but also tasked with the responsibility of making sure I can assist with resource needs for other sites and all the important projects within the Groundwater program itself," Hurt said about her expanded role.

LM Supervisory Physical Scientist William Burns applauded Hurt's hard work, adding, "Meghann was thrust into the acting Groundwater program manager role after an unexpected departure of her predecessor. She quickly excelled at the position and had a great vision of where it needs to go. After successfully piloting the program for almost a year, senior management rewarded her skillsets and tenacity by making the role permanent with a promotion. She took the advice often given by Dr. Melendez and 'drove it like she stole it.'"

Although the program itself is relatively new, LM and LMSP have always worked together to ensure LM continues its mission of protecting human health and the environment through its groundwater work.

"Our work hasn't changed. We are just fine tuning how to better coordinate and prioritize projects across programs and figuring out efficiencies when it comes to this program," Hurt said.

As for the future of the Groundwater program, Hurt said, "My goal is for everyone to understand that the LMSP Groundwater team is there to assist in site recommendations and that they are the subject matter experts when it comes to site work itself or resource allocation. I want everyone to feel comfortable relying on the Groundwater team for guidance and help with sites. With anything new, there is some trial and error, but I'm excited for the future ahead."



Groundwater Program Manager Meghann Hurt represents LM at a STEM event in Grand Junction in April 2022.



Meghann Hurt | Groundwater Program Manager



Mary Young Takes the Helm of UMTRCA Title II Portfolio

2025 Employee of the Year recipient to lead long-term stewardship, mentor future site management teams

Mary Young has always been driven by a willingness to embrace new opportunities. That mindset has guided her from a career rooted in biology to becoming the newest Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title II program manager at the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, a role she officially assumed in July.

In her new position, Young will oversee programmatic responsibilities for all current and future Title II transition sites, ensuring they protect human health and the environment while supporting LM's long-term stewardship mission.

Young's journey with the organization began in 2017 when she joined the Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program as an ecologist after earning her biology degree from Colorado Mesa University. Originally from White House, Tennessee, she moved to Colorado in 2011 and spent several years managing an animal hospital while completing her education.

Her passion for science and the outdoors eventually led her to DOE, where she quickly discovered a mission she connected with.

"I kind of fell in love with DOE because of its mission," Young said. "I do believe in our mission. One of our core mission areas is protection of human health and the environment."

Since joining the organization, Young has consistently sought opportunities to grow. She served as an ecologist before being promoted to team lead, transitioned to the federal workforce in 2020 as a DRUM project manager, and became a site manager in 2023. Along the way, she developed a reputation for collaboration, problem solving, and a willingness to take on new challenges.

According to UMTRCA Team Lead Paul Kerl, those qualities made Young a natural choice for her new leadership role. Her impact has also been recognized previously, earning her LM's Employee of the Year honor in 2025 — another reflection of the dedication and leadership she consistently brings to the organization.

"Mary has continuously demonstrated the highest levels of commitment, dedication, and support not only to the mission, but also to her fellow teammates," Kerl said. "She routinely maximizes her value to the organization by

supporting work that transcends her normal duties and has consistently demonstrated the ability to take on more responsibility and lead others."

As UMTRCA Title II program manager, Young will mentor site management teams, support budget development, identify opportunities to reduce risk, compile and analyze programmatic information, and oversee long-term stewardship activities across the Title II portfolio. She will collaborate closely with UMTRCA leadership, support partners, site managers, regulatory agencies, states, and Tribal nations to support current and future Title II transition sites.

"I'm excited to take on a new role and new responsibilities," Young said. "I get to have different counterparts, build new relationships, and have a little more influence over the program. I always ask, 'Why are we doing this?' If we need to do it, that's fine — but let's ask the question."

Young is looking forward helping others succeed. She believes effective leadership comes from teaching people how to solve problems rather than simply providing answers.

"I really like teaching people how to do things," she said. "Instead of just giving them the answer, I try to show them where to find it. I enjoy helping people learn and become more confident."

That passion for mentorship, paired with her curiosity and commitment to continuous improvement, has shaped her career from the beginning. Looking back, she credits supportive mentors and a willingness to step outside her comfort zone for helping her grow professionally.

For those just beginning their own careers, her advice is simple: "Don't say no to growth and enriching opportunities. You never know what may actually be a good fit for you or when you'll need to draw from those experiences."

Young's promotion reflects both her dedication to LM's mission and the organization's commitment to developing strong leaders from within. As she begins this new chapter, she will play an important role in strengthening the UMTRCA program while continuing to foster collaboration, innovation, and stewardship across LM.





Rebecca Roberts Honored as LM Employee of the Year

LM site manager honored and grateful for Philip C. Leahy Award

Weldon Spring Site Manager Rebecca Roberts, shown at LM's disposal cell in St. Charles County, Missouri, won the Philip C. Leahy Employee of the Year Award in June.

On June 2, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Director Carmelo Melendez presented Site Manager Rebecca Roberts with the Philip C. Leahy Employee of the Year award for her hard work and commitment to the LM mission.

Established in 2017, the award recognizes LM employees who demonstrate qualities of an outstanding team player by being dependable, enthusiastic, prepared, self-improving, and tenacious.

*I was shocked when I found I won.
Speechless, in fact.*

— Rebecca Roberts

The award is named after U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Philip C. Leahy. During World War II, Leahy arrived in Grand Junction, Colorado, to procure domestic sources of uranium for the Manhattan Project. After the war, he became the first manager of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Colorado Raw Materials Office, which was headquartered at what is now the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction.

Nominations for the Leahy award come from peers and supervisors and are judged by the LM deputy director and two office deputies.

During the award ceremony, Director Melendez lauded Roberts' commitment and dedication. During 2025, Roberts was the "quintessential team player whose intangible qualities, like enthusiasm, attention to detail, and selfless drive for the next challenge were admired," Melendez said. "She consistently demonstrated pride in her work and sought opportunities to help her team and the mission."

"I was shocked when I found I won. Speechless, in fact," Roberts said, recalling the moment. "Winning this award is very special. We all work extremely hard and accomplish so much within this organization."

Roberts couldn't wait to share the news with her family.

"One of the best parts about winning was sharing the news with my husband and children. They are extremely proud of me. They know I work hard, but getting this award helps them to see and understand that there is value in hard work," Roberts said.

She jokingly added, "This did not motivate them to do their chores any faster."

Roberts started as a support partner to LM in 2016, working as a project manager for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program for five years. In 2021 she became a federal employee, serving as the site manager for the Weldon Spring Site in St. Charles County, Missouri. She has also taken on programmatic roles, contributing her skills to a diverse set of responsibilities.

During her time with LM, Roberts has made many contributions, but she recalls her favorite was from this past year.

"I am leading LM's Value Analysis and Cost Savings Campaign this year. Last year I got my certification as a federal project director for DOE, which allows me to manage DOE capital asset projects," Roberts said. "It's rewarding to help ensure responsible stewardship of our federal funding. I feel very passionate about what we do here at LM, and I am lucky to have a job that I enjoy."

While Roberts has come into a leadership role at LM, surprisingly, her biggest challenge to overcome throughout her career has been public speaking.

"Public speaking is not always something I'm comfortable with, but it's a big part of my job — especially at the Weldon Spring Site, where we do a lot of site tours," Roberts said. "In order to improve, I had to embrace the discomfort that I felt. It's still not my favorite thing to do, but because I keep doing it, I am getting better all the time."

Despite this personal challenge, Roberts has excelled in her communication skills. Roberts is "a tenacious site, project, and program manager," Melendez said during the awards ceremony. "This past year, she dependably interacted with more than 300 federal and contractor employees representing various stakeholders, federal and state partners, and functional areas internal and external to LM on several teams."

Roberts expressed her gratitude for her LM and LM Support Partner (LMSP) teammates and for the challenging mix of work that LM's mission requires.

"One of the best things about working here is the people — we have so many knowledgeable people and they are always willing to help when asked," Roberts said. "Even though I am the one with my name on the award, I realize, and am grateful for, the support I get from my LM and LMSP teams. That support is really what helps me be successful."

“

She consistently demonstrated pride in her work and sought opportunities to help her team and the mission.

— Carmelo Melendez

Roberts added, "I really enjoy the variety of work that I get to do here and the variety of people that I get to interact with. I have a lot of work that requires me to be at a desk, but as site manager for the Weldon Spring Site, I love attending and helping with presentations or tours in the interpretive center, participating in field activities, and meeting with our stakeholders."

As for her future goals within LM, Roberts is just getting started. She was recently selected for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program manager role.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about the CERCLA/RCRA sites and being able to help the team meet their goals," she said.

LM's Site Operations Director Jay Glascock expressed the huge impact Roberts has had on LM's mission. "She has managed major projects at Weldon, furthering the site's master plan. She is leading the trustee group, including the Department of the Army and the state of Missouri, through the natural resource damage assessment process at Weldon. The list goes on. She brings her 'A' game every day and is very deserving of this prestigious award."

In addition to Roberts' Employee of the Year award, her LM colleagues Jeff Austin, Kyle Brown, Meghann Hurt, Ken Kreie, and Lisa Saurborn were also recognized with Leahy awards.



LM Now an Established Presence at Western Colorado Children's Water Festival

Site Manager Sara Woods and Support Partner staff teach students about LM's water-monitoring efforts

Office of Legacy Management Site Manager Sara Woods has established herself as a seasoned veteran of the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival in Grand Junction.

LM Support Partners Sam Campbell and Ashton Andrade have also become regular features of the festival that takes place each May at Las Colonias Park in Grand Junction. As they've done for the past five years, Campbell and Andrade supported Woods's presentation, "Go With The Flow," at the park. This year, Interpretive Specialist Stefanie Paeg, on loan from LM's Fernald Preserve Visitors Center near Cincinnati, joined her Grand Junction colleagues at the festival May 11-12.

The water festival is the largest of its kind in Colorado, "inspiring students and celebrating water education," festival organizers said. About 1,500 fifth graders from across Western Colorado attend the festival every spring. LM was one of 41 presenters on the schedule this year, welcoming 14 groups of students over a two-day period.

"Over the years, the water festival brings more laughter, learning, and fun," Woods said. "Each class of fifth graders is unique in the history that they know of Las Colonias, the curiosity that they have of what LM's responsibility is at the site, and of course, an overwhelming excitement to get wet!"

Every year, LM's team presents an overview of the history of Las Colonias, the site of a former mill where uranium was processed for the U.S. government during the Manhattan Project and Cold War years. Andrade explains that mill tailings from the site that had been used as fill dirt in the community were removed and relocated to a disposal cell 18 miles southeast of Grand Junction, for which LM is responsible.

When Andrade asks each class if anyone has ever heard of uranium, the answers are often amusing, and always illuminating. The kids have developed their own lexicon, and terms such as "clicky sand" (for the sound a Geiger counter makes) and "radioactive trash can" (a disposal cell) convey a message that resonates with young minds.

"When you hear the word 'legacy,' what do you think about?" Andrade asked. "I think of, like, a superhero movie," a boy said, to the thoughtful amusement of the adults.

With the history of the site spelled out, Campbell demonstrates how LM scientists continue to collect water samples from the Colorado River, flowing past LM's station just a few yards away. Campbell explains the concepts of turbidity, conductivity, pH balance, and temperature and tells the kids about how LM is monitoring the water to ensure the naturally occurring levels of uranium, magnesium, calcium, iron, selenium, and sodium are all within acceptable standards.

Because the site at Las Colonias has been deemed safe after cleanup, the former industrial area has been returned to the community for beneficial reuse and has become a valuable asset. LM's long-term surveillance ensures the remedy will continue to protect human health and the environment.

"Las Colonias is well known throughout the Grand Valley as a great place to catch a concert at the amphitheater, or visit the dog park, or float the Lazy River, or just walk along the river trail," Woods said. "It's a prime example of a best-case scenario for not only the community, but also for LM."

ATOMIC

It's a prime example of a best-case scenario for not only the community, but also for LM.

— Sara Woods



LM's Sara Woods and LM Support Partner Sam Campbell present to fifth graders at the 2026 Western Colorado Children's Water Festival.





LM Presents 2025 Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, Annual Report Information to the Community

LM hosts second annual meeting for local municipalities and the public

LMSP John Boylan and Karin McShea share Rocky Flats Site information during a site tour with elected officials and municipal staff on June 18.

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management hosted a series of meetings and a tour in June to highlight the *Calendar Year 2025 Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, Annual Report*, which is produced to fulfill regulatory requirements.

LM Rocky Flats Site Manager Michelle Franke kicked off the annual report presentation on June 16 at the Legacy Management Operations Center in Westminster, Colorado. Twenty-four elected officials and municipal staff — representing Arvada, Boulder, Northglenn, Westminster, Boulder and Jefferson Counties, the city and county of Broomfield, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and regulatory agencies — heard about the site's history, LM's role at the site, and site monitoring and maintenance information from 2025. Rocky Flats Site staff discussed surface-water monitoring, groundwater monitoring, site operations, and ecological monitoring. Attendees were invited to ask questions throughout the presentation.

On June 18, the Rocky Flats Site team hosted a tour of the site for regulatory agencies and 17 local elected officials and municipal staff representing Arvada, Boulder, Northglenn, and Westminster, as well as Jefferson County and the city and county of Broomfield. Tour participants saw various locations at the site and asked questions. They learned about the site history, the former infrastructure at the site, and LM's current mission. The group viewed the new uranium treatment component from an overlook and discussed the process of uranium and nitrate treatment at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System. LM Support

Partner (LMSP) Senior Hydrogeologist John Boylan and LMSP Environmental Scientist Caleb Artz also discussed groundwater and surface-water monitoring and how groundwater is treated to protect surface water. LMSP Ecologist Karin McShea showed the group areas that were seeded in 2025 and discussed revegetation and wildlife at the site.

The group viewed the location of the remediated former 903 Pad, where drums leaked and contaminated the soil in the 1950s and 1960s. Tour stops included South Walnut Creek, North Walnut Creek, Woman Creek, and the South Interceptor Ditch, where the group discussed surface-water monitoring at two Points of Compliance (Woman Creek Point of Compliance and Walnut Creek Point of Compliance) and Points of Evaluation, including GS10.

The final part of the annual report briefing was a live virtual meeting for the community, held the evening of June 25. Franke and the rest of the Rocky Flats Site team shared the annual report presentation, answered questions, and heard public comments.

"As part of LM's mission and the Rocky Flats Site Public Involvement Plan, we want to ensure the community is regularly updated on LM's long-term surveillance and maintenance at the site," said Franke. "This is our second year hosting these annual meetings, and we appreciate the opportunity to engage with the communities and share information."

2025 Rocky Flats Annual Report Highlights

Ecology

Ecological monitoring data showed a well-functioning vegetation community that supports a variety of wildlife.

Native seeding occurred on 3.39 acres to increase desirable vegetation cover.



Operations and Maintenance

No violations of institutional or physical controls were observed during the annual site inspection.

Installation and start-up of the **full-scale uranium treatment component** at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System **completed**.

250 | Groundwater and Surface Water Samples

1,979,000 gallons of water were effectively treated on-site.

Reportable Conditions

ZERO reportable conditions at any **Area of Concern wells**.

ONE reportable condition for uranium at a **Point of Evaluation**.

The uranium concentrations returned to below reportable condition levels by the following month.

ZERO reportable conditions at the Points of Compliance.

Infographic highlighting the 2025 Rocky Flats Site annual report.

Highlights of the annual report included the following:

- **Surface water monitoring:** There were no reportable conditions at the Points of Compliance in 2025, which is where surface water ultimately leaves the site. There was one reportable condition within the site at a Point of Evaluation, GS10, in 2025, which returned to below reportable condition levels the next month. A reportable condition occurs when a surface water standard is exceeded per the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement at surface-water and groundwater monitoring locations.
- **Groundwater monitoring:** Results from wells scheduled for sampling in 2025 were generally consistent with data from previous years.
- **Site operations:** The 2025 annual site inspection revealed no violations of institutional or physical controls and no significant subsidence or erosion. A new uranium treatment component was installed and began operating in 2025.
- **Ecological monitoring:** No adverse biological conditions were observed in 2025.



LM Site Manager Michelle Franke shares information about the Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, and the 2025 annual report with local elected officials and municipal staff on June 16.

Questions about the annual report or any other Rocky Flats Site topics can be emailed to the site team at RFInfo@lm.doe.gov.

A full copy of the 2025 annual report, the 2025 virtual meeting, and the 2025 annual report presentation can be found on the Rocky Flats website.



<https://www.energy.gov/lm/rocky-flats-site-colorado>



Barbara Michel Joins LM ECHO

Barbara Michel joined the Office of Legacy Management Education, Communication, History, and Outreach (ECHO) team Monday, Aug. 10, as a Tribal and Public Affairs Specialist at the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Michel is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, a federally recognized Tribe centered on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Western Montana along the Flathead River. Her Tribal citizenship brings a lived understanding of Tribal engagement and community relations to the ECHO team.

Michel says, “As a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Tribal engagement is personal to me. I’m honored to join ECHO and help continue building trust and open communication with Tribal and public partners.”

For the past eight years, she has worked as a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management office in Grand Junction, supporting the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action project. The project is a large-scale environmental cleanup effort to remove and safely dispose of uranium mill tailings near the Colorado River outside of Moab, Utah. Serving as the sole public affairs professional on-site, she was responsible for the full scope of the program — communications strategy, media relations, materials development, and stakeholder coordination. Her work helped keep the public informed of project milestones and build lasting trust with surrounding communities throughout this complex remediation effort.

Michel’s background is in education, and that foundation carries directly into her new role. Her experience engaging young learners and families translates naturally into ECHO’s outreach mission, where connecting with youth and community members is central to the team’s work. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University in Family and Human Development.

“It has been more than a year since we’ve had full-time support in this position, and we are delighted to welcome Barbara to the team,” said LM ECHO Supervisor David Von Behren.



Barbara Michel | Tribal and Public Affairs Specialist



At Conference, DOE Historian Presents on Connection Between DOE Sites and Ecological Research

Discussion centers on unique history of DOE's National Environmental Research Parks

Attendees discuss the film No Turning Back after what was likely the first public screening of the film in more than 50 years. Boyle is involved in a project to convert archived films to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's creation.

U.S. Department of Energy Chief Historian Eric Boyle presented an overview of the history of DOE's National Environmental Research Parks at a conference in Milwaukee in July, highlighting the perspectives of scientists who worked at six parks at the time they were established.

Boyle was a co-presenter at the North American Congress for Conservation and Restoration 2026. He was joined by Sarah Jensen, J.D., senior policy advisor and environmental protection specialist for DOE; and Heida Diefenderfer, Ph.D., senior earth scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and faculty fellow at the University of Washington.

DOE Chief Historian Eric Boyle discusses the film No Turning Back, made in 1971 by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Attendees watched a screening of the film at the conference.

Conference invitees represented the fields of land stewardship, ecological monitoring, natural and cultural resources management, wildlife and range resources, compliance, biology, and ecology.

"Our collaborative presentation was designed to offer an overview of the sites where DOE has environmental research parks," Boyle said. "We covered their historical origins and the unique ecoregions they represent. It was also an opportunity for me to highlight some of the preliminary findings from oral histories I conducted with six scientists who were there when the parks were originally established in the 1970s, '80s and '90s."

The Society for Ecological Restoration Midwest Great Lakes Chapter and the Society for Conservation Biology North America co-hosted the event. The joint conference brought members of the two groups together to learn from each other and create a network-building event for their members.

Boyle's and his co-presenters' overview of DOE's National Environmental Research Parks described DOE's evolving, expanding national security and science missions. The interactive part of the session included scientists and managers from seven National Environmental Research Parks located at DOE sites: Savannah River Site, Nevada National Security Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Hanford Site, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

continued →



Feedback from attendees was also collected to inform the future direction and operation of the parks.

Discussion centered on land management at these DOE sites over 50 years across ecoregions including desert shrub, eastern deciduous forest, juniper-pinyon and grassland, shrub-steppe and riverine, southeastern mixed forest, and tallgrass prairie.



Our collaborative presentation was designed to offer an overview of the sites where DOE has environmental research parks.

— Eric Boyle

In these areas, required environmental monitoring has revealed an inventory of thousands of plant and animal species, conference organizers said in material prepared for attendees.

"Decades of limited public access, other than permitted DOE research and operations activity, has coincidentally preserved large expanses of habitat, some the last of its kind," organizers wrote.

Boyle said the research at these parks over the course of the past several decades has had an enormous impact on the field of ecology.

"Oral histories with researchers highlighted a wide range of scientific, regulatory, educational, and collaborative benefits," he said. "Even though interviewees noted that funding streams for parks have been inconsistent from site to site, the work has continued. The designation of the parks alone has provided crucial symbolic value, lending credibility and justification for ongoing environmental monitoring and research."

After the presentation, attendees watched a screening of the film *No Turning Back*, made by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and released in 1971. The film, narrated by actor Lorne Greene, begins with scenes suggesting that "the wealth of Earth and all its beauty are part and parcel of (man's) own proud future. But there are gross mistakes that he must guard against. Now more than ever, man must measure his effect on nature. Still, his needs are great and growing, and there is no turning back."

Boyle found the film at the National Archives and Records Administration. He collaborated with the DOE Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, which arranged to have the film reproduced in digitized form.

"It was likely the first public screening of that film in more than 50 years," Boyle said.

Boyle found the film at the National Archives and Records Administration and collaborated with the DOE Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, which arranged to have the film reproduced in digitized form.





AEC Films Available Online on the LM Website

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), established in 1946, used documentary filmmaking as one of its primary public outreach tools. Between the late 1940s and the agency's dissolution in 1974, it sponsored hundreds of films that documented nuclear research, promoted peaceful uses of atomic energy, trained scientists and engineers, and shaped public opinion about the Atomic Age. By 1972, the AEC catalog listed 232 films available through regional film libraries for schools, universities, industry, and civic organizations.

Most of these films are available for viewing at the National Archives and Record Administration in its Moving Pictures and Sound Research Room in College Park, Maryland. However, the vast majority are only available in 16 mm format. Only a fraction have been digitized.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of AEC's creation, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) History program is providing direct access to more of these films.

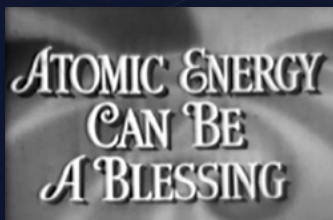
For reference, the 1972 AEC Combined Catalog lists 17 subject categories for educational and informational films and describes 134 films in areas including agriculture, biology, ecology, environment, industrial applications, medicine, nuclear research, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and power reactors. Part 2 of the catalog lists 16 technical and professional subject categories and describes 98 technical films for use primarily by professional audiences such as colleges and universities, industry, researchers, scientists, engineers, and technologists. The subjects include engineering, fuels, medicine, peaceful nuclear explosives, physical research, and principles of atomic energy. At the time, all films were available for free from the five AEC libraries listed.



Available Online at
the National Archives



Atomic Energy as a Force for Good highlights the contrast between the destructive nature of atomic weapons and the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The film addresses public skepticism and champions the medical and industrial potential of atomic power.



Atomic Energy Can Be a Blessing is hosted by actor Fred MacMurray and outlines the peaceful applications of nuclear power, framing the atom as a divine gift rather than a human-made curse.



Atomic Energy for Space outlines the role of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Nevada Test Site in early development of nuclear power for space exploration.



The Atomic City explores the infrastructure, layout, and daily operations of planned, government-constructed "atomic cities" built to house scientists and workers during the Cold War.



Atomic Furnaces highlights the science and infrastructure of early nuclear reactors and covers the fundamental physics behind splitting the atom and how a nuclear reactor serves as a controlled "furnace."



Atomic Physics discusses the history and development of atomic energy, stressing nuclear physics. The film presents research tools of nuclear physics from a variety of scientists.



Atomic Power at Shippingport details the creation of the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the world's first full-scale atomic electric plant built exclusively for peaceful civilian use.



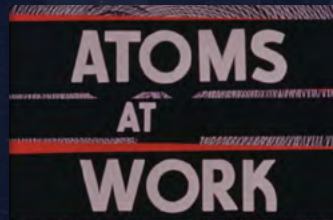
Atomic Tests in Nevada explains the reasons for continental testing of nuclear weapons and describes testing procedures at the Nevada Test Site, with detailed information on measures taken to protect the public.



Atomic Weatherman describes the world's first radioisotope-powered weather station, which is still operating unattended at a remote site in the Canadian Arctic.



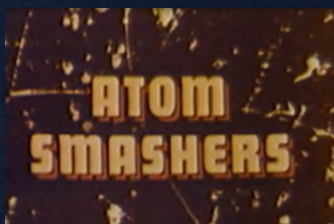
The Atomic Zoo explores how radioactivity affects animals and food products, featuring experiments with sheep, fowl, and fish.



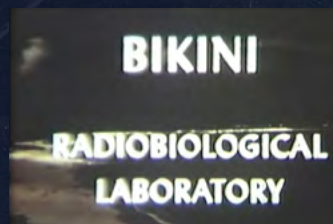
Atoms at Work: The Latin American Exhibit features AEC's traveling exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Atoms for Peace ties together film footage from various sources to cover the entire range of peaceful applications of atomic energy in industry, biology, medicine, and agriculture.



Atom Smashers explains the purposes, principles, and methods of particle accelerators.



Bikini Radiobiological Laboratory is about the 1946 atomic tests at Bikini Atoll, revisiting the area three years on and examining the effects of radioactivity on plants and marine life.



The Church in the Atomic Age engages moral questions related to the use of the atomic bombs at the end of World War II and the challenges facing Christians in the new atomic age.



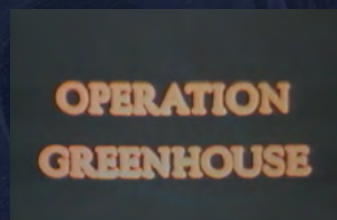
Giving Wings to the Atom explores the development of atomic propulsion for aircraft, focusing on the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion project from 1946 to 1961.



The International Atom explains in basic terms nuclear fission, the use of nuclear power for the propulsion of ships, the use of irradiation in the food industry, and the production and use of radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture.



Operation Crossroads documents the 1946 U.S. nuclear tests at Bikini Atoll.



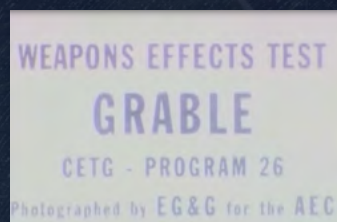
Operation Greenhouse is the official documentary film for the 1951 U.S. nuclear weapon tests at the AEC Pacific Proving Grounds on Enewetak Atoll.



Radiation as a Cause of Cancer presents an overview of the basic facts that have been clinically and experimentally established regarding the effects of radiation on living tissue.



The Warm Coat details Operation Sea Otter Transplant, a joint wildlife conservation effort to relocate sea otters from Amchitka Island to new Alaskan habitats.



Weapons Effects Test Grable documents the historic 1953 Shot Grable nuclear test.



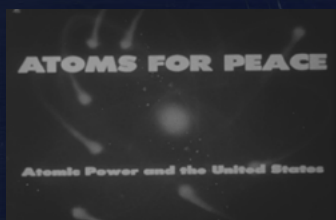
Working Together summarizes international cooperation advancing the peaceful applications of atomic energy.



▲
The films are available to view at:
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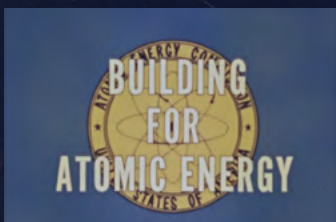
Atomic Power and the United States summarizes activities of both the government and private industry as they deploy atomic energy to generate electric power.



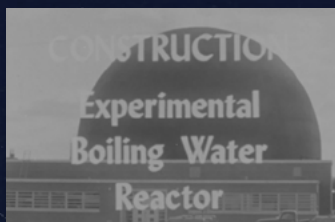
Atoms For Space describes the development and use of compact nuclear power sources for space under AEC's Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power program.



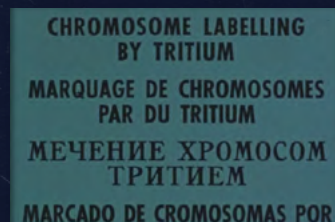
Balloon Borne Radiation Spectrometer explores the role of an Argonne National Laboratory instrument in following the movement of debris after Soviet atmospheric bomb tests.



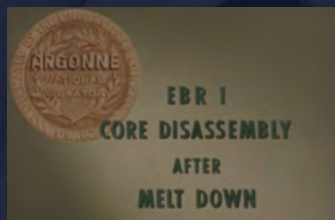
Building for Atomic Energy documents the construction of the Savannah River Plant, the largest single construction project ever undertaken by AEC at the time.



Construction of the Experimental Boiling Water Reactor provides information about this unique facility constructed at Argonne National Laboratory.



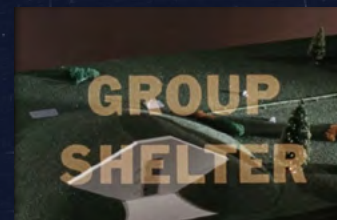
Chromosome Labeling by Tritium, narrated in French, outlines the advantages of using tritium for high-resolution autoradiography in cellular and chromosome studies.



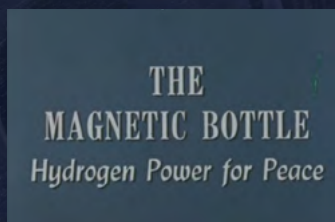
EBR-I Core Disassembly After Melt Down presents aspects of the removal and subsequent disassembly of the core of the Experimental Breeder Reactor (EBR) I following a meltdown in 1955.



EBR-II Fuel Cycle Development presents the aspects of the development, then in progress, of a completely integrated fuel cycle for the EBR II.



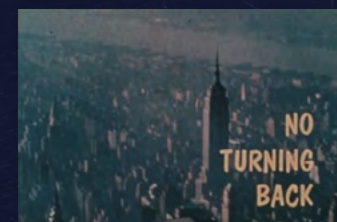
Group Shelter describes an underground corrugated metal arch shelter design for the protection of 100 people for two weeks or more.



The Magnetic Bottle provides a concise summary of the U.S.'s Project Sherwood for research into controlled nuclear fusion.



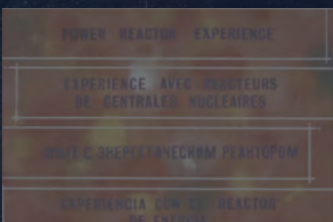
ML-1 Mobile Nuclear Power Plant shows how the U.S. Army's need for mobile power was partially filled by the design, construction, testing, and field operation of a new transportable power reactor plant, the ML-1.



No Turning Back is narrated by well-known actor Lorne Greene. The film asks if "society can continue to produce and thrive and grow in harmony with Nature's plan" and suggests some people trying to answer this question are part of the ecology research program supported by AEC.



Nuclear Energy Goes Rural presents the background, planning, and construction of the Elk River Reactor for Minnesota's Rural Cooperative Power Association.



Power Reactor Experience surveys the status of power reactor development in the United States with particular emphasis on the economic aspects and the development of the privately-owned nuclear power industry.



Project Dugout documents this chemical high-explosive experiment conducted June 24, 1964, at the Nevada Test Site in AEC's Plowshare Program.



Project Gnome covers the first nuclear detonation conducted under AEC's Plowshare Program for development of peaceful uses of nuclear explosives.



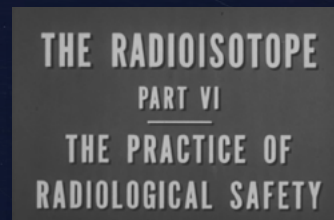
Project Rover offers a progress report on AEC's program for the development of a nuclear rocket for spacecraft propulsion.



Radioisotopes: Their Application to Humans as Tracer Studies and for Therapeutic Use presents the characteristics of radioisotopes and introduces equipment used in tracer studies, demonstrated on patients.



The Radioisotope: Part IV — Methodology explores the underlying principles and practical considerations governing tracer usage along with the design of tracer experiments.



The Radioisotope: Part VI — Practice of Radiological Safety focuses on practical considerations and techniques involved in the safe handling of radioisotopes.



Underground Nuclear Explosion Excavates Artificial Lake documents Soviet peaceful nuclear explosions. The film highlights Soviet nuclear test footage demonstrating earth-moving cratering tech used to form reservoirs like Lake Chagan.

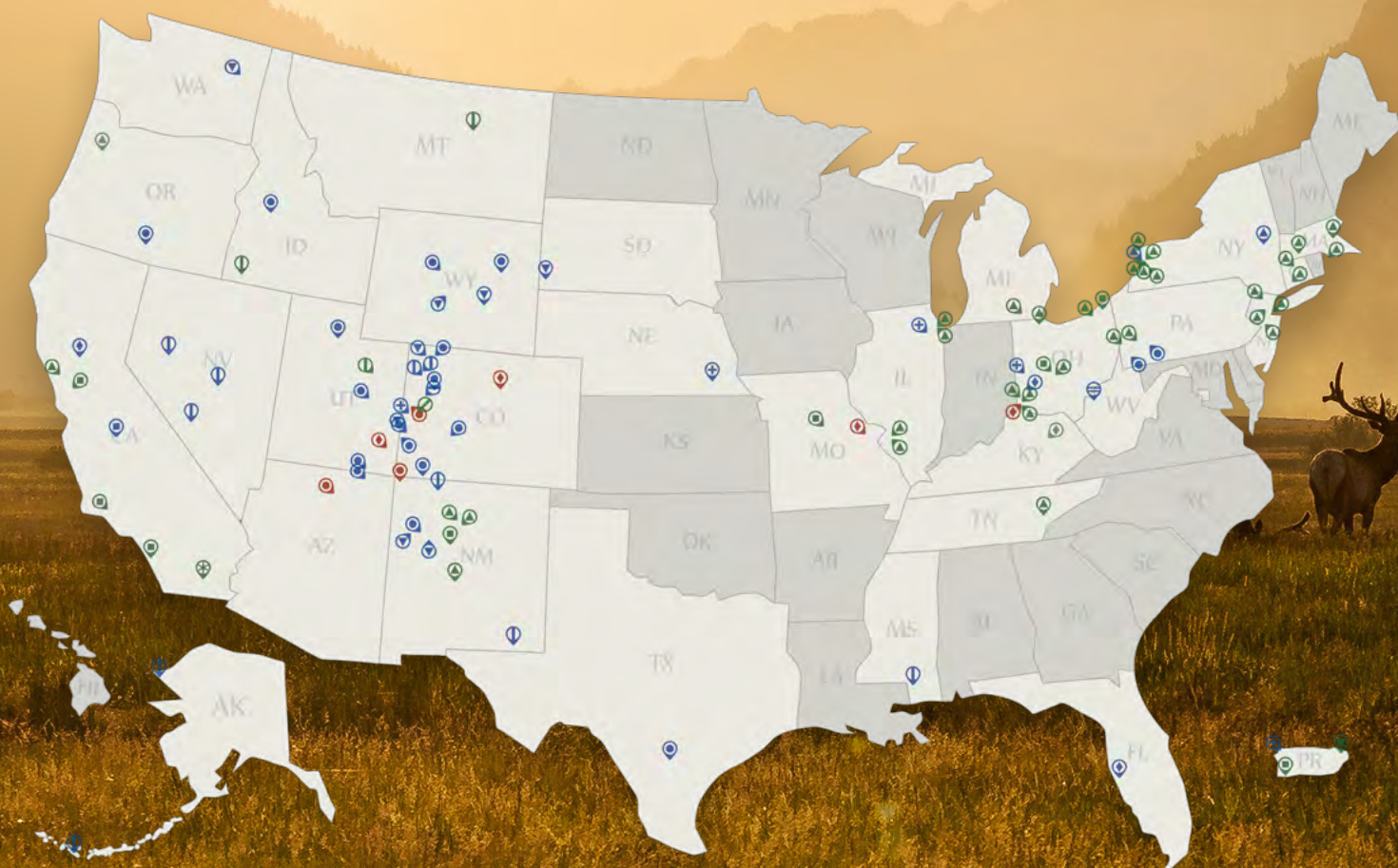


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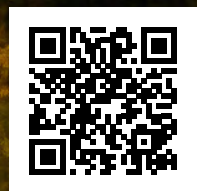
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